

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS
FRANK D. REEVES MUNICIPAL BUILDING
2000-14th STREET, N.W., SUITE 420
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
(202) 671-0550

IN THE MATTER OF)	DATE: October 3, 2003
)	
Towanna A. Friend)	DOCKET NO.: 03F-196
Deputy Budget Director (Former))	
DC Public Schools)	
835 Decatur Street, NW)	
Washington, DC 20011)	

ORDER

Statement of the Case

This matter came before the Office of Campaign Finance (hereinafter OCF) Office of General Counsel following a determination by its Public Information Records Management Division, that pursuant to the D.C. Code §1-1106.02 (2001 Edition), Towanna A. Friend, Deputy Budget Director, DC Public Schools, failed to timely file, a Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2002, on or before May 15, 2003 as required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 and also failed to file on or before the OCF sanctioned extended filing deadline of June 19, 2003.

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated August 11, 2003, OCF ordered Towanna A. Friend (hereinafter respondent), to appear at a scheduled hearing on August 26, 2003 and show cause why she should not be found in violation of the D.C. Campaign Finance Reform and Conflict of Interest Act of 1974, as amended by D.C. Official Code §§1-1101.01 et seq., and fined accordingly.

Summary of Evidence

OCF alleges that the respondent failed to timely file the statutorily required Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2002, on or before June 19, 2003.

On August 26, 2003, respondent appeared at the scheduled hearing and testified that she was separated from the District Government on August 5, 2003. Respondent further stated that she received an exit interview and completed a Separation Clearance Form, but was not informed of the requirement to file a final Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF. At the hearing, respondent presented her separation letter and Separation Clearance Form evidencing her separation from the government. Respondent

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was a Management Supervisory Service employee. Respondent filed a final Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF on August 26, 2003.

Findings of Fact

Having reviewed the allegations and the record herein, I find:

1. Respondent was a Management Supervisory Service employee.
2. Respondent's employment with the District Government terminated in August 2003.
3. Respondent was required to file a Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF for calendar year 2002, on or before June 19, 2003.
4. Respondent filed the required Financial Disclosure Statement on August 26, 2003.
5. Respondent is a first-time required FDS filer.
6. Respondent was afforded an exit interview, but was not informed of the requirement to file a final FDS with OCF upon separation from government service.
7. OCF provided notice to file if the filer ceases to serve prior to May 15th of any year, and within 30 days of any change in information on its Financial Disclosure Statement form.
8. Respondent's explanation for the delinquent filing is credible in that she believed she was not required to file a final Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF because she is a novice to the FDS filing requirements, and she had terminated government service.
9. Respondent is currently in compliance with the statute.

Conclusions of Law

Based upon the record provided by OCF, I therefore conclude:

1. Respondent violated D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02.
2. The penalty established at D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), and 3DCMR §§3711.2(aa), 3711.2 and 3711.4 for failure to timely file a Financial

Disclosure Statement required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 is a fine of \$50.00 per day for each business day subsequent to the due date.

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3. In accordance with D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), the respondent may be fined a maximum of \$2,000.00 for failing to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement.
4. For good cause shown pursuant to 3DCMR §3711.6, the Director of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine.
5. Respondent's explanation for failing to timely file constitutes good cause for suspension of the fine.

Recommendation

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I hereby recommend that the Director suspend the imposition of the fine in this matter.

Date

Jean Scott Diggs
Hearing Officer

Concurrence

In view of the foregoing, I hereby concur with the Recommendation.

Date

Kathy S. Williams
General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that the fine be hereby suspended in this matter.

Date

Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery
Director

SERVICE OF ORDER

This is to certify that I have served a true copy of the foregoing Order.

Rose Rice
Legal Assistant

NOTICE

Pursuant to 3 DCMR §3711.5 (1999), any fine imposed by the Director shall become effective on the 16th day following the issuance of a decision and order, if the respondent does not request an appeal of this matter. If applicable, within 10 days of the effective date of this order, please make a check or money order payable to the D.C. Treasurer, c/o Office of Campaign Finance, Suite 420, 2000-14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.